

Captain Joseph Fillinghast House
403 South Main Street, southwest corner of
South Main and James Streets
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-4

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
18-

~~An addendum to~~
Captain Fillinghast House
403 South Main Street,
Providence, Rhode Island
in HABS Catalog (1941)

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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18-

JOSEPH TILLINGHAST HOUSE
403 South Main Street
PROVIDENCE, Providence County, RHODE ISLAND

Owner: Mary T. Babcock
Mary T. Gladding

Date of Erection: About 1770

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Present Condition: Satisfactory

Number of stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Frame clapboard structure-gable roof,
two inside brick chimneys. Liverpool
Scriptural Tiles about fireplace in
north parlor, originally, now in the
home of Mr. Donald Babcock, Providence.

Other Existing Records: The RHODE ISLAND GUIDE book, Page 286,
#81.
"Early Homes of Rhode Island,"-Downing.
Photographs, mantel in the northeast
parlor, p. 248, photograph hallway,
showing stairs, wainscoting, and old
Gothic Revival wall paper, p. 249.

Additional Data: Transcript of Records as forwarded by
Antoinette F. Downing as follows:

1767 Joseph Olney to J. Tillinghast-Land
called a water lot: Deed.

1826 Land and house were willed by Joseph
Tillinghast (Capt.) Mariner to
daughters, Elizabeth G. Chandler and
Almy Ann Arnold.
Elizabeth Chandler drew south part of
house. Almy Ann Arnold drew north part
of house.

1857 Deed to Elizabeth G. Chandler, widow
of William. Elizabeth Chandler died
in 1877.

1880 Deed- Elizabeth G. Chandler to Mary A.
Earle.

1897 Deed Mary A. Earle to Mary A. Earle,
Estate.

1898 Deed Mary A. Earle, Estate, to Benjamin
C. Gladding.

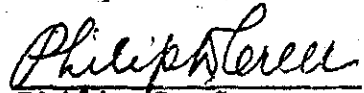
1915 Deed- Benjamin C. Gladding to Hannah T.
Gladding.

1922 Deed- Hannah T. Gladding to Mary T.
Gladding.

1924 Deed- Mary T. Gladding to Mary T.
Babcock et Mary T. Gladding.

To

Present Date 1937


Philip D. Creer
District Officer for
Rhode Island

CAPTAIN JOSEPH TILLINGHAST HOUSE

HABS
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18-

Address: 403 South Main Street, southwest corner of South Main
and James Streets, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island. Plat 16, Lot 18.

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Present Owner: Mrs. Myles Standish, 100 Angell Street, Providence,
Rhode Island.

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Brief Statement
of Significance: This house, built about 1767, is the only well-
preserved survival of the pre-Revolutionary
period on the lower part of South Main Street
in Providence.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Date of erection: Probably soon after 1767 when Joseph Tillinghast acquired the property.
2. Notes on present condition: The building is unoccupied and is now being renovated for business rentals. A new central heating system with baseboard heaters and new plumbing are being installed. The original partitions are in place and are not being altered, nor are the floors which are also apparently original.

The original entrance was replaced by the present Greek Revival doorway, probably about 1840. A small section of original hallway paneling, painted a medium olive green, was covered over when the doorway was added and is visible in a small closet beside the doorway. The first floor mantels have been partly altered, apparently about the same time as the Greek Revival doorway was added, and some of the mantel shelves on the second floor fireplaces have also been altered.

There is a later bay window between the south rooms on the first floor, and some Greek Revival trim on the doorways between these two rooms. There are later plaster ceiling medallions in these rooms, and also in the central hallway.

The present six over six light, double hung windows are probably later; originally the windows may have had twelve light sash with heavier muntins as in the window at the stair landing. There is some later hardware, but second floor doors have early box locks and L-shape hinges. The stairway balusters around the stair well on the second floor are slightly different from those on the steps, and may have been altered. A bathroom has been added on the second floor in the central hallway over the entrance. The Gothic wallpaper in the hallway, recorded earlier in HABS, has been removed and destroyed.

3. Sources of information: John Hutchins Cady, The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1957), pp. 44,45.

Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1937), pp. 245, 248, 249, 367.

Federal Writers' Project, Rhode Island, A Guide to the Smallest State (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937), p. 280.

Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., Rhode Island Architecture (Providence: Rhode Island Museum Press, 1939), p.26

HABS Inventory prepared by John Hutchins Cady, October 19, 1956.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
April 1962.